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HONGKONG DEPLASIR



RECREATION NOTES.

The V.R.C. annual meeting takes place this evening at 5.30, and as I hear there are several interesting questions to be raised by members, the meeting promises to be a lively one. In the continued absence of Captain Hastings and the resignation of the Acting Chairman, Mr. E. D. Sanders, a change in the Chairmanship must be made, and there is a strong desire among the members who interest themselves in the management of the Club to elect the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., to the position. If Mr. Pollock is willing to accept it, the Club will find him an excellent aid in the arrangements to be made for the new club on the new site. There will also be some changes in the Committee.

A good deal of ink has been wasted over the boys and the bar at the V.R.C. As a regular frequenter of the Club, I must say that exaggerated statements have got into the newspapers on this subject. The youthful members of the Club are not the principal supporters of the bar. They are the only members who keep the sporting spirit of the Club, and if they do have a drink after rowing, swimming or gymnastics, it is usually an innocuous "equator" or "gin sling." There are others who seem to regard the Club more as a Social Club than as a sporting rendezvous. These members are useful in their way, especially when the hot ground for prizes, but they could be better spared than those who maintain the legitimate objects of the V.R.C. There can be no manner of doubt that sport wants a flip in Hongkong just now, and it would be forthcoming if the youth of the Colony exhibited more of those characteristics which knit the youth of the Old Country together. There is, in my opinion, no doubt about it, as suggested by a correspondent a few days ago, that sobriety is the prevailing disease in Hongkong, and it is the division of the young men (and some of the old ones, too) into exclusive cliques that is doing so much harm. It is a wonder to me that some of them bathe in the same ocean—that they don't get an ocean to themselves.

Water Polo is still the favourite sport, and the V.R.C. representatives are training for the hard ties they anticipate in the forthcoming Shield competition. The teams selected are as below—

A TEAM.	B TEAM.
A. A. Alva	W. A. Stapan
A. Lougou	J. Miller
H. A. Lamont	R. Henderson
J. H. R. Hume	F. M. Raza Pereira
F. K. R. Hume	L. E. Lamont
C. M. S. Alves	H. W. Carpenter
J. M. Raza Pereira	F. J. V. Jorge, jun.
A. J. Madick (Reserve)	H. A. Soth (Reserve)
G. H. Rubio	H. M. Bain
W. Crake	C. Humphreys
	F. E. Ellis

Next to Water Polo comes Bowling. There seems to be a revival of this ancient game (it is not "royal and ancient" like golf), and competitions are now in progress in Singapore, Hongkong and Shanghai. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank mess and a few friends have taken to the game like a duck to the water, and some exciting games are played nightly in the Bank Gardens on the Recreation. A little bird whispers to me that the bankers mean to challenge the Kowloon Bowling Green Club. If this is the case, I don't think the Kowloonites will be at all backward in accepting the challenge. A couple of matches on the respective greens would create a spirit of healthy rivalry. For the sake of the game, I hope the matches will take place.

"Geordie" writes to me respecting the fourth paragraph of my last week's notes:—The bow mentioned there is really a stone ball, slightly smaller than a cricket ball, and is commonly used by the Northumbrian miners. It may be seen even in these days, when they occasionally compete. "Ball" can easily be converted into "Bow" in the broad Northumbrian dialect. The miners' method of bowling is by a jerk from the right hip, as you often see a cricket ball jerked instead of thrown. By practice on a good road, these miners have often thrown or jerked the ball 150 to 200 yards, and the record is, I believe, over 300 yards. I am indebted to "Geordie" for the information, and hope to have other contributions from his store of "local and general" knowledge. Can he tell me, for instance, when lawn bowls were first introduced to the Far East?

Yorkshire continues to hold the place of honour in the County Cricket Championship. It was a marvellous performance of Rhodes and Haigh to get rid of a strong batting side like Nottingham in 12 or 13 of the bat. The actual record in first-class matches is 1:2 by Oxford against M.C.C. and Oxford in 1877, but Oxford had no batsman absent.

The following is the record compiled to 19th June:

Year	W	L	T	Runs
1870	11	8	1	1,000
1871	10	10	1	1,000
1872	10	10	1	1,000
1873	10	10	1	1,000
1874	10	10	1	1,000
1875	10	10	1	1,000
1876	10	10	1	1,000
1877	10	10	1	1,000
1878	10	10	1	1,000
1879	10	10	1	1,000
1880	10	10	1	1,000
1881	10	10	1	1,000
1882	10	10	1	1,000
1883	10	10	1	1,000
1884	10	10	1	1,000
1885	10	10	1	1,000
1886	10	10	1	1,000
1887	10	10	1	1,000
1888	10	10	1	1,000
1889	10	10	1	1,000
1890	10	10	1	1,000
1891	10	10	1	1,000
1892	10	10	1	1,000
1893	10	10	1	1,000
1894	10	10	1	1,000
1895	10	10	1	1,000
1896	10	10	1	1,000
1897	10	10	1	1,000
1898	10	10	1	1,000
1899	10	10	1	1,000
1900	10	10	1	1,000
1901	10	10	1	1,000

There is a strong agitation in English cricket circles in favour of improved fielding. In reading the reports of matches this season one is struck by the reiteration of the story that had the chances offered been accepted by the losing side the result of the game would have been different. "Quite so!" But if it was not for better play the winning side would never win, if I may be allowed to perpetrate a "bull." Mr. W. L. Murdoch once said that the side that never dropped a catch would very rarely lose a match, no matter what its bowling or its batting were like. I agree with such an eminent authority. My own experience, which is an extended one, bears this out. Fielding seems to be a lost art. Fielders, nowadays, consider it such a beastly thing that they give little or no attention to the finer points of fielding in a match and never consider it necessary to practice. I have seen some very smart fielding on the Hongkong ground, mostly by natives, and it was a treat to see men like de Bobeck and C. G. Taylor saving runs in a close match.

I notice that leg-break bowling is becoming fashionable. In a description of the match between Yorkshire and Middlesex, just to hand, it is stated that A. E. Trotter caught much amusement by swiping at and missing six successive balls on the leg side sent up by J. T. Brown. I can imagine Trotter's feelings. When Brown was learning his leg break, I once had a merry quarter of an hour at the net with him. Sometimes you got 'em, sometimes you didn't, and it broke Brown up when I took to jumping out of my ground and swiping his "poculiers" before the break came off, regardless of his admonition that that was not cricket! It may not have been, but I got more satisfaction out of it apparently than did poor Trotter.

The Shamrock may not win the Cup this year, but it is some satisfaction to know that the Pennsylvania University crew beat their superiors at Henley. When the crew landed in England, they were criticised—as most American crews are—on the shortness of their stroke. They must have disposed of some good crews in the preliminary heats, however, before meeting the Leaders in the final; and, according to Reuters' telegram, the race must have been a most exciting one. The Americans will not have to wait long for their revenge, for Yale and Harvard ought to win the Inter-University athletic meeting.

SPECTATOR.

ARMY NOTES.

The Military Pension Fund.
Simla, June 21.—A despatch from the Secretary of State is published in the Gazette on the subject of the Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund withdrawing the temporary reduction of subscriptions and donations and reverting to the original scale of payments in all cases. The Secretary of State further agrees to postpone for the present any consideration of a reduction below 4 per cent taken as payable by Government and restricts half rate subscriptions, these changes to take effect from the 1st July next.

Allahabad, June 22.—The Government of India have now selected a suitable officer for the post of Inspector-General of Volunteers. The need for systematic inspection of Volunteers Corps has long been admitted, while much needs to be done in improving the organization, equipment and training of the force as a whole. As the consolidated pay of the appointment will probably be Rs. 2,200 monthly, similar to that of the Inspector-General of Cavalry, the services of a senior officer of high qualifications should readily be obtainable.

Allahabad, June 25.—Captain R. A. Moore, R.A., Prof. Officer, Bangalore, is now in England obtaining all the necessary information at Enfield Factory regarding the buildings, machinery, plant, etc. required for the manufacture of rifles in India. The site of the small arms factory will probably be Tabpur where with the abolition of the gunpowder factory in consequence of the introduction of cordite, ample ground is in possession of Government. As regards the cordite factory in the Nilgiris good progress is being made with the buildings. Major H. H. Ordinance Department, returns from England next month bringing with him a portion of the European staff required for the factory. Colonel Schach has been appointed Deputy-Adjutant General, Bengal Command, and Colonel Dyer proceeding on leave. Colonel Whendley, 3rd Gurkhas, becoming Assistant Quarter Master General, 1st Gurkha Division.

Captain Edgell, Military Works Services, will be entrusted with the building of the new gun carriage factory at Jubbalpur, the final plans for this are now being passed. Simla, June 26.—Major J. H. E. Reid, 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers, is appointed permanent D.A.A.G., Madras Command, but continues to officiate as A.A.G., Madras District.

Major R. E. T. Hume, from the 17th Madras Infantry, officiates as Commandant, 2nd Madras Infantry. The Government of India have now selected a suitable officer for the post of Inspector-General of Volunteers. The need for systematic inspection of Volunteers Corps has long been admitted, while much needs to be done in improving the organization, equipment and training of the force as a whole. As the consolidated pay of the appointment will probably be Rs. 2,200 monthly, similar to that of the Inspector-General of Cavalry, the services of a senior officer of high qualifications should readily be obtainable.

THE DISINFECTION OF NO. 5 DISTRICT.

In response to a request from H. E. the Governor, the following minute from Mr. F. A. Brown with reference to an article which appeared in the *Hongkong Telegraph* of 24th ult., was laid on the table at the meeting of the Sanitary Board:

I do not recognise No. 5 District from the description given. In most particulars the account is grossly exaggerated. After the disinfection, the place was devoid of all objectionable odour. A few drains when being unblocked gave out an unpleasant effluvia. Evidently the writer was not acquainted with the Chinese mode of living and was not aware of the fact that the Chinese do not have drains in their houses. Speaking generally, the houses, lanes, and drains were as clean and in as good order as any Inspector can reasonably be supposed to keep them. Paragraph B is an exaggeration. The European in charge of each house was instructed to remove all refuse, to throw away all their broken crockery, ragging, and useless lumber, and the Chinese were heartily glad to get rid of such. In one gang one dust cart was filled with rubbish collected from three Chinese houses. It is surprising that it did not sink. I thought at the time how trying to the men would have been the work if the house had not been disinfected. From my experience of cleaning, I do not think that the amount of rubbish was more than could be kept in the house. The amount of refuse of the European inspection, however, was conducted as clean as they could be. Only a yearly compulsory cleansing such as that completed yesterday in No. 5 District, in my opinion, any real value in teaching the Chinese how to keep their houses, cubicles, floors or houses.

The Hon. F. B. May, Minister, I spent two hours in the houses in the District at the commencement of the operations. I saw some rubbish, old baskets, empty tins, discarded paper, etc., such as is discarded in any European house or office in the Colony, but nothing that could be described as filthy.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLONY.

Further Recommendations.

To-day, the Sanitary Improvement Committee (Hon. F. H. May, Dr. Clark and Mr. E. Osburne) made the following report at the meeting of the Sanitary Board:—In continuation of our reports of February 1st and April 19th, we have the honour to submit the following further recommendations for the improvement of the Sanitary condition of the Colony:

(1) That the Government be advised to erect—
(a) Every domestic building hereafter erected of a greater depth than forty feet (as measured in accordance with sub-section 5 of section 56 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1901) shall be provided by the owner with a glazed skylight in the roof of a total area of not less than one-twentieth of the total floor area of such domestic building, and every upper floor shall be provided with a well-hole, communicating, in position and area, to such skylight.

(2) That with a view to the improvement in the condition of the storm drains, provision should be made for a sewer inlet adjacent to every storm drain inlet, so that all foul waters finding their way into the side channels may enter the sewer, instead of as frequently happens at present, entering the storm drain, which latter should only receive storm water. The Committee understand that this is an essential element in the success of the separate system of drainage.

(3) That additional flushing tanks should be provided for the sewers of the City of Victoria.

(4) That with a view to the exclusion of rats from the dwelling houses and the exclusion of garbage from the sewers and storm drains the gratings to the storm and sewer outlets should be furnished with small metal interceptors as possible.

(5) That ceilings and latrine and plaster walls should be prohibited in all tenement buildings in the City of Victoria below the level of Canal Road, and in Kowloon.

(6) That the use of the latrine by the having of fresh vegetable, and other perishable articles of food should be remedied as far as possible by the provision of covered open spaces to which lavatory should be strictly confined. The Committee suggest that a part at least of the temporary market which is to be erected on the south side of the proposed new Harbour Office be devoted to this purpose, and also that the vacant fore-shore immediately to the west of the Public Works store on Praya Street be levelled and enclosed and used for a similar purpose, so that a level site is set apart for the hawkers in Kowloon, and another in Yau Ma Tei.

(7) That the segregation camp at Lai Chi Kok be proceeded with as once.

IMPROVEMENTS AT PEKING.

The correspondent of the *N. O. Daily News* wrote from Peking on the 28th June:

THE LEGATION CITY.
In building the wall, while not near as high as the city wall, nor as thick, it is still built heavily enough to afford resistance to any but heavy artillery guns; and as the Chinese don't make and cannot under peace conditions import heavy siege guns, the Legation is in a secure position. The Chinese are well provisioned, and the last siege was successfully resisted, because there being several large grain shops in the Legation area, provisioning the large garrison of non-combatants as well as the six hundred defenders was possible. In future, with all Chinese business houses out of the district, only such provisions as are required for the military barracks will be stored in the Legation. 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